

Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

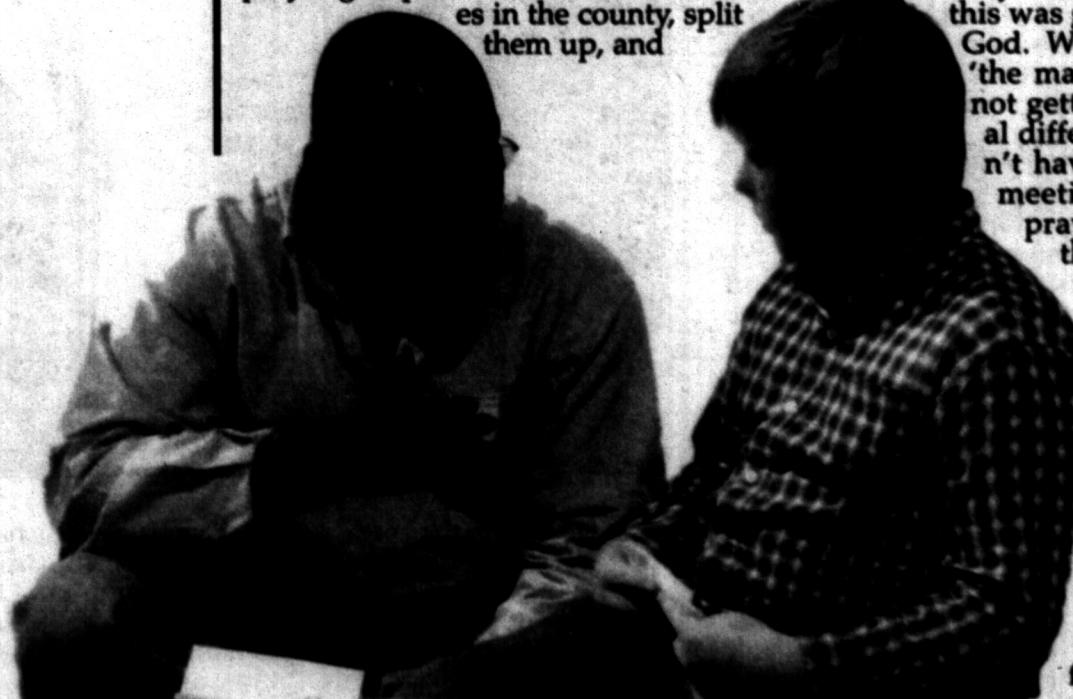
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No. 18

MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

ONE ON ONE — An unidentified counselor spends time sharing with a young man making a decision for Christ during the Central Mississippi Impact Crusade in Carthage Mar. 30 – Apr. 2. (Photo by Lisa Boyd)



LIFE-CHANGING DECISIONS — Hundreds crowd the stage at the Carthage Coliseum during the Wednesday night services of the Central Mississippi Impact Crusade. Over 600 decisions were recorded that evening. (Photo by Lisa Boyd)

began calling pastors of every church, every denomination, and every race. About 40 people attended the meetings that grew out of those contacts.

The group continued with the Monday morning prayer meetings toward the end of summer 2007. "We invited all denominations, all races, anyone who could come," said Mayo. "From those prayer meetings, we started seeing the Church of God folks show up, the Methodist preachers show up, the Missionary Baptists show up. We basically just hit our knees, pleading to heaven for our county. People came to realize that if this was going to be, it had to be of God. We knew we had to keep 'the main thing the main thing,' not getting off on denominational differences and such. We didn't have any big organizational meetings originally. We just prayed for specific needs as they came up."

During the course of the prayer and planning, some of the African-American pastors had some questions. One issue that arose was that this event was never to be a "black or white" crusade. Those pastors were insistent that there be some joint worship services among the different churches before the crusade itself. In those worship services, one of the large predominately black churches would

host one of the white pastors to preach, and the next time one of the larger predominately white churches would host an African-American pastor. First Church, Carthage, was one host church, and True Light Missionary Baptist Church would host the other.

The worship services were scheduled two weeks apart. True Light hosted the first meeting with about 500 in attendance. "It was like a football game," said Mayo. "Traffic was bumper to bumper. God had gotten in it — the majority of the folks there were white — and from then on, it was unity.

"When we went to First Church two weeks later, it was just reversed, and that was some worship service. That place just erupted in praise. It just set the crusade on fire, because we knew there was support from all over the county."

The total attendance for the crusade was approximately 7,000, with 2,800 on Wednesday night alone. Mayo states there were close to 600 decisions.

"We had to realize that this was an evangelistic crusade and not just a revival," Mayo said. "They are two different animals. Number one, we didn't try to put church people in the seats. We tried to train our church people to catch a vision for evangelism and gain their support. You don't need to worry about having the biggest name speakers or musicians, because pagans don't know who they are anyway."

"At some point, God moved our prayer times from vision to expectancy. God had given us a vision, and it just became a sense of expecting Him to work."

"There wasn't a person on the steering committee who was surprised at the results. It never became mechanical."



EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



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Southern Baptists have had a truly amazing run. From our early years with a handful of congregations to our present thousands upon thousands of churches, God has blessed us. Trouble clouds are beginning to appear on the horizon, however. Baptisms in Southern Baptist churches are down for the third straight year, according to the Annual Church Profile just released by LifeWay Research, an arm of LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention. In addition, church membership went down by almost 40,000 people in 2007, only the second such decline in 80 years.

"This is truly disheartening," said Thom Rainer, president of LifeWay Christian Resources, which is headquartered in Nashville. "We are a denomination that, for the most part, has lost its evangelistic passions."

The declines are not unstoppable, but we have put ourselves at a critical disadvantage by losing our decades-long momentum in the first place. Now, it's going to be difficult (but not impossible) to get it back.

The worldwide need for the Gospel is as great as ever, and the time is short. If we don't get started right away reaching out to new generations in ways they understand and to which they can relate, all the while putting aside our petty grievances against each other and focusing on what's really important, we will go the way of many of our mainline Christian brethren who were content to rest on past victories and failed to embrace the future.

"If the 1950s come back," said Ed Stetzer, LifeWay's director of research, "Southern Baptist churches would be ready to go."

Is that really what we want?

Living in the '50s

2007 Southern Baptist Convention Statistical Summary

Item/Statistic	Final 2007	Final 2006	2007-2006 Numeric Change	2007-2006 Percent Change
State Conventions	41	41	0	0.00%
Associations	1,186	1,185	1	0.08%
Churches	44,696	44,223	473	1.06%
Total Membership	16,266,920	16,306,860	-39,936	-0.24%
Baptisms	345,941	364,826	-18,885	-5.48%
Ratio of Baptisms: Total Membership	1:47	1:45	(N/A)	(N/A)
Primary Worship Attendance	6,148,868	6,138,776	10,092	0.18%
Sunday School Enrollment ⁽¹⁾	7,876,611	7,931,753	Not comparable ⁽¹⁾	Not comparable ⁽¹⁾
Total Mission Expenditures ⁽¹⁾	\$1,327,856,082	\$1,265,616,031	Not comparable ⁽¹⁾	Not comparable ⁽¹⁾
Church-Type Missions Operating ⁽²⁾	5,254	5,241	Not comparable ⁽²⁾	Not comparable ⁽²⁾

Notes:
(1) Comparison between 2007 and 2006 data is not possible due to the fact that some state conventions did not ask the item in 2006. See the 2006 SBC Statistical Summary for details.
(2) Some state conventions no longer use the designation of Church-type Mission to categorize congregations which are not self-determining, self-sustaining, and self-propagating.

Other 2007 Items

Not asked by all State Conventions

Item/Statistic	Final 2007	Final 2006
Other Additions ⁽³⁾	361,583	394,321
Discipleship Training Enrollment ⁽³⁾⁽⁴⁾	1,864,348	1,803,826
Music Ministry Enrollment/Participation ⁽⁴⁾	1,444,837	1,466,124
Worship Enrollment ⁽⁴⁾	778,585	811,139
Men/Boys Mission Education Enrollment ⁽³⁾⁽⁴⁾	381,955	376,379
Total Giving, & Special Gifts ⁽³⁾⁽⁴⁾	\$10,645,108,910	\$10,425,420,529
Undesignated Receipts ⁽⁵⁾	\$8,699,860,367	\$8,293,404,321
Value of Congregational Property ⁽³⁾⁽⁴⁾⁽⁵⁾	\$11,532,871,418	\$11,572,608,393
Value of Congregational Property ⁽³⁾⁽⁴⁾⁽⁵⁾	\$37,737,114,929	Not asked in 2006

Notes:
(1) Totals for items in this table have incomplete data for 2007 due to the fact that not all state conventions asked the item or did so in a way not comparable with the standard definition. Similar actions occurred in 2006. Thus, comparisons between the two years may not be appropriate. See the Notes in the 2006 SBC Statistical Summary for specific details to determine if a comparison should be made.
(2) Prior to 2005, Discipleship Training Enrollment counted persons more than once (counted for each group in which they participated). In 2005 (and afterwards), the item was changed to count persons only once regardless of how many studies in which they participated.
(3) California Southern Baptist Convention either did not ask this item or their item definition was not comparable to the definition used by other state conventions.
(4) The Baptist General Convention of Texas did not ask this item or the information necessary to obtain the total.
(5) The Illinois Baptist State Association and the Kentucky Baptist Convention did not ask this item.

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April 21, 2008

Smith to serve Miss. churches as handbell consultant

JACKSON (Special) — Mississippi Baptists are ringing in a new handbell consultant in their state convention office.

"On February 1, Michelle Smith became the third handbell contract consultant in thirty years for the Church Music Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB)," said L. Graham Smith, MBCB director of church music. "Michelle lives in New Albany where her husband Harold is the minister of music and senior adults at First Church. Michelle serves there as pianist and children's choir coordinator, as well as director of two handbell choirs."

Prior to that, she served as pianist and children's choir coordinator at First Church, Batesville, for ten years; as music assistant at Broadway Church in Fort Worth for two years; and as day camp director for two summers at LifeWay Glorieta Conference Center at Glorieta, N.M.

Her MBCB-related experience includes serving as children's music specialist in the Church Music Department;

faculty member for the Young Musicians Camp; member of the Handbell Committee; and handbell instructor at the Mississippi Baptist Church Music Leadership Conference.

Michelle Smith replaces longtime handbell consultant Jerry Talley of Raymond, who retired. She holds a bachelor of music education degree (1990) from Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia, Ar., and a master of music degree (1993) from Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth.

"Michelle is a very gifted leader and teacher in many areas," Graham Smith said. "However, in handbells she excels in her giftedness and calling from the Lord. She has served on our state handbell committee for several years. She is ready to consult and help with resources in the handbell area for your church as called upon."

Michelle Smith may be contacted at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3273 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 273. E-mail: msmith@mbcb.org.



NEW CONSULTANT — Mississippi Baptist handbell consultant Jerry Talley (left) handed his responsibilities over to Michelle Smith upon his retirement in February. Smith is a long-time handbell enthusiast who assisted the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Church Music Department in handbell matters for several years prior to her appointment as handbell consultant. (Special photo courtesy of Church Music Department)

Didlake presents new disaster relief plan

FORT CASWELL, N.C. (BP) — Southern Baptists took a major step toward responding more quickly to overseas disasters when their state disaster relief directors approved a new protocol for mobilizing "initial responders" to crisis situations overseas.

Gathering April 21-23 at Fort Caswell, N.C., for their annual round-table meeting, disaster relief coordinators for three dozen Baptist state conventions approved a six-point recommendation from a subcommittee charged with hammering out the protocol in consultation with the North American Mission Board (NAMB) and Baptist Global Response (BGR), a new Southern Baptist international relief and development organization.

"This new agreement between the North American Mission Board and Baptist Global Response has pushed us way ahead," said Jim



Jim Didlake

the disaster, said Jim Brown, stateside director for Baptist Global Response.

Under the new plan, Baptist state conventions will compile a roster of initial responders who will be given intensive training for crisis intervention. A major change in the new plan is that initial responders from two or three states will be on call for immediate response during design-

ated months of the year. Didlake, director of Men's Ministry and the disaster relief director for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB), as he presented the proposal. "What we see here is something we have hoped for for a long time, and that is a real plan to respond to disasters overseas."

Southern Baptist response in times of crisis has been hampered by the difficulty of identifying team members with the appropriate skills and getting them quickly to the scene of

"This approach gives us a lot of flexibility to meet the specific needs that arise when a crisis breaks, whether the need is to send in a team of four people or eight people or two teams of five people," Brown said. "States will be able to mobilize the initial responders very quickly. We will have two or three states on call at the same time, so the burden doesn't fall only on one state."

Southern Baptists have a very efficient protocol for responding to disasters in the United States, with the North American Mission Board serving as a hub to identify needs and match volunteer teams from churches and state conventions that have the right skill sets for the task, Brown noted.

Southern Baptists have been recognized by the American Red Cross and federal emergency management leaders for the crucial role played by volunteers in the aftermath of disasters like that on the Gulf Coast in the aftermath of hurricanes in 2005.

The process of responding to overseas disasters is now more streamlined since the International Mission Board contracted with Baptist Global Response as a "21st-century partner" for international relief and development, Brown said.

Baptist Global Response will facilitate connections between International Mission Board field personnel, national partners, stateside disaster relief directors, and the North American Mission Board.

All the new protocol requires is for a Baptist Global Response area director to determine that a crisis response will require stateside assistance. Then Baptist Global Response, in collaboration with the North American Mission Board, will immediately mobilize the initial responders on call, Brown said.

Initial responders can then be on the scene of a disaster quickly, providing preliminary ministry assistance to field partners and assessing

future needs for long-term ministry support teams.

Initial responder teams will be made up of people with specialized skills such as engineers, medical personnel, and water sanitation, explained Sam Porter, disaster relief director for the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma.

Team members will be trained to work cross-culturally in disaster relief specialties like assessment and logistics.

"This is going to be a huge opportunity for us in Southern Baptist life," Porter told the group. "In Oklahoma, we are going to put together an A-team of people who have special skills. There are going to be a lot of requirements, but it's going to help our field partners to know that we are sending the very best volunteers from each of our states and that they aren't just coming out of impulse."

Initial responders also will be trained in spiritual care and Bible storying, Brown noted.

"We ask disaster relief volunteers to go out and meet physical needs all the time, but there really are tremendous opportunities for a team to provide spiritual care — praying for people and sharing a relevant 90-second Bible story that can give them hope in their time of crisis," he said.

"When we respond to a crisis, it's not just because of the project but because the Lord wants us to touch people's lives, to care for their hurt and show His love and compassion."

State disaster relief directors plan to have initial responder teams online by June 1 to cover the remainder of 2008. Training for those teams will begin this summer and should be completed by Dec. 31, 2009.



MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

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Christian arrested

BEIJING (BP) — Shi Weihan, a Chinese bookstore owner in Beijing, has been rearrested for publishing Bibles and Christian literature during a time when a shortage of such materials has been reported in China. Shi, a 37-year-old father of two daughters, was taken into custody for a second time March 19 and has been held without family visits, China Aid Association said in a news release April 22. "His wife said she received no word on her husband's condition, and she has been prevented from bringing any food or change of clothing since his rearrest," Daniel Burton, a spokesman for China Aid, told Baptist Press. "She is very concerned about his health due to his diabetes and the deprivation and torture that's often used by Public Security Bureau officials on the arrested." Burton said Shi's second arrest was unexpected. "It comes as a big surprise to us because he was released on insufficient evidence back in January," Burton said, referring to Shi's first imprisonment, which began in November. Another bookstore owner, Zhou Heng, was arrested and detained in Xinjiang province in August for receiving a shipment of Bibles. Zhou revealed last week that he had been cleared of charges and released from prison in February, the news release said. Shi is not a dissident and had not faced any difficulties with Chinese authorities prior to last fall, Illinois businessman Ray Sharpe told Baptist Press in December. Rather, Shi is "a solid Christian believer who wants to practice his faith in his private life and his business." Shi's Christian literature bookstore is located in a modern high-rise business tower within two miles of the Olympic Village, Sharpe, a long-time friend, said. Shi also is a travel agent and, as an entrepreneur, has been involved in exports and advertising. Shi's bookstore only sold books for which he had received government permission, Sharpe said. Police confiscated computers, business records, and Christian materials from both Shi's home and business when he was arrested in November. His wife, Zhang Jing, was arrested and later released after questioning as were Shi's younger brother and his wife. Zhang's arrest was witnessed by the couple's two daughters, Grace, age 7, who is a U.S. citizen by her birth in the United States during a 2000 visit, and Lily, age 11. Concerned individuals are urged to contact their congressmen and senators, via the Capitol switchboard, at (202) 224-3121. Burton of China Aid also suggested calling the Chinese Embassy in Washington at (202) 338-6688.

For more information on Mississippi Baptist disaster relief ministries, contact Didlake P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3334 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 334. E-mail: cwright@mbcb.org.

Looking back

10 years ago

Edna M. Ellison, Women on Mission consultant for the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union (wMu) since 1995, resigns to accept a similar position at Southern Baptist wMu national headquarters in Birmingham.

20 years ago

Paul G. Jones II, executive director of the Christian Action Commission of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, is elected to a two-year term as president of the Mississippi Council on Family Relations during the group's annual meeting.

30 years ago

Roland Q. Leavell is given the rank of president emeritus of New Orleans Seminary effective May 1, according to Owen Cooper, Yazoo City, chairman of the board.

FLEXIBILITY

Flexibility is important in virtually every area of life. God gives an abundance of flexibility to us when we are young, and it certainly comes in handy. Watch little children as they play. They roll, tumble, fall down, and jump back up. If you were to translate those same movements into the body of a 50-year-old, it would probably mean a few days in the hospital. Children are able to do those kinds of things because they are flexible.

On the mission field, flexibility is essential. Anyone who has ever been on a mission trip knows that from beginning to end, flexibility is important. If everything you do has to be neatly packaged, running on time, understood by everybody, finished, and put away at a precise moment, you probably will not do well on a mission trip. The people, the programs, or the process that will get you to and from the work will not meet all of your expectations. You have to be flexible and do what needs to be done as best you can with the resources you have.

I remember a few years ago a mission team that traveled thousands of miles with the anticipation of literally building a church facility where they were going. On arrival they found that the material had not come and would not be there while they were there. Some of the manpower that was supposed to be there to help would not be coming. The preparation for the building had not been made and it became clear rather quickly that what they came to do was not going to happen. So what were they going to do with the 10 days they had allocated to build this new church facility? The only things they had they could use were shovels, and so they started manually, physically digging the footings of the foundation. All day every day they showed up and dug ditches along with some people from the church and community. Hour after hour, they did manual labor alongside the men from the community. Day after day the bond of friendship, care, and love became stronger and stronger. At the end of the mission trip, all of the men had come to understand that while they thought they were coming there to build a church building, God had actually sent them there to build relationships.

While flexibility is important, a person, church, or organization can become inflexible. It is usually a sign that something bad is taking place. Just think about changing something in church and see how flexible you are. Has your church ever struggled with changing its time of meeting, its constitution, or its music? It is pretty amazing to see how people act. Listen to what they say and it usually reveals that there is far more concern about the structures than about the substance of what takes place inside.

Have you ever bought tickets to a football game, another sporting event, or some other special event and on the ticket for the time it said, "TBA?" It could be a football game where 50-75 thousand people are going to gather and the time is to be announced. Still everyone finds out the time, travels many miles, gets there, and



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx, 1932 - 2004
copyrighted 2005

HYP LF D FTLALN: DEP NUQI

NUDN MYAFULT ULO OVFN

MYAFULT ULO LE FTLALN

DEP LE NAVNU.

GYUE BYVA: NMQENI-BYVA

Clue: V = U

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Romans Eight Ten.

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said, "Well, I am sure quite a while." Then I asked him, "Have you thought about how long a person would be in hell if an opportunity for them to come to know Jesus is not given?" He looked puzzled, and I said, "Suppose somebody comes and parks their car where this tree was, they come inside, hear the Gospel, and accept Christ?" He just shook his head and let me know that he would rather have the tree than to accept the possibilities that might be available for some soul. Sometimes our inflexibility causes us to hold on to our traditions, or even a tree, regardless of the difference that may be made.

Now let me just share a brief word about probability. Depending on how we deal with flexibility and inflexibility, the probability is that we will develop an image, an aura from our church that enables people to see who we are, how we think, and how receptive we might be to others. If people hear us express our outrage about a time change, some tune that is sung in the church, or the removal of some tree, they quickly come to understand that we probably would not be open to welcoming them either.

I remember one time the church where I was pastor needed to enlarge the parking lot. We just did not have enough parking spaces for all of the people who came to the services, so the church made plans and voted to enlarge the parking space. Though the plans were carefully drawn and there were some trees that would be kept in the green spaces, there were some other trees that would have to be cut down. Protestors came to express their outrage that the trees were being cut. Although they were not members of our church, they were terribly upset. I visited with one of the men who seemed to be the leader. He said that he was a Christian, and he could not believe that Christians were doing such a terrible thing. I told him how we had tried to keep some of the trees while expanding the parking lot. That did not matter to him. He said, "Do you know how many years it took for these trees to grow and be this size?" I

All through the years I have run into those folks who just know and sometime express that if they were to show up at church it would just blow people's minds. Their pasts, their lifestyles, their sins, and their problems have been so out of sync with church folks that they are convinced the people of the church would have nothing to do with them. Sometimes they are wrong but on other occasions, our lack of flexibility shows that they are right on.

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Join other Baptists on your choice of two departures this summer: August 17 or September 14, 2008. Fly into Sioux Falls, SD for a scenic three-day drive to Calgary, Alberta. In route, on your comfortable motor coach, visit Fargo and Bismarck, ND; then north to Saskatchewan to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Academy. Highlights include Calgary; Lake Louise; Banff National Park; ride a SnoCoach over the Columbia Ice Fields; Canmore, Alberta; Waterton Lakes National Park; Kananaskis Country; Helena and Billings MT; Custer's battlefield at the Little Big Horn; Black Hills National Forest; Mt. Rushmore and Crazy Horse National Memorial; legendary Badlands National Park; and more! Includes 13 nights hotels, baggage handling, and lots of motor coach sight-seeing. *Per person, double occupancy plus \$149 tax, service, gov't fees. Add \$600 airfare from Memphis, TN; Birmingham, AL; or Gulfport/Biloxi, MS. Add \$700 airfare from Jackson, MS; or Atlanta, GA. Space is limited for each date and \$100 deposits are now due. Call today!

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What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

House Tops.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

May 1, 2008

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

FOR ALL BOYS AND GIRLS WHO HAVE COMPLETED GRADES 3-7

Bible study, Bible memorization, Bible skill, worship, campfire service, morning watch, time with Southern Baptist missionaries, horseback riding, rifle range [safety/marksmanship], swimming, canoeing, four-square ... and much more!



Cost \$95
with \$50
deposit
due with
pre-registration

Each church group must have an adult male counselor for every six boys (or portion thereof) and an adult female counselor for every six girls (or portion thereof). Campers are together with the counselors from their church all during camp.

Camp begins with check-in at 2 p.m., Monday, June 30, and ends at noon on Wednesday, July 2.

For more info, contact the Discipleship and Family Ministry Department 601-292-3287 or dhicks@mbcb.org

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Small/Bivocational Church
Pastor's Workshop

Monday, June 30
Auburn Baptist Church, Tupelo
Tuesday, July 1
Easthaven BC, Brookhaven

Speaker: Barry Campbell
Director, Eastern Region
LifeWay Christian Resources

For more information, contact
Kay McDonnell at
601-292-3305,
1-800-748-1651, ext. 305,
or kmcconnell@mbcb.org

8:30 - 11:30 a.m.



Southern Regional Rally (\$1 at the door)
Tuesday, August 26, at William Carey University
Rally: Lincoln Choral, Brookhaven
J. Dennis Daniels, Congregational/Pastoral Care Ministry at FBC, Jackson

Break-outs:
Fun Time with Kandi Anderson - humorist, radio personality, Gulfport, Miss.
Preparing for the Journey - Talmadge Smith, AMD, Brookhaven, Miss.
Seniors on Mission with God - Evelyn Williams, Newton, Miss.

Northern Regional Rally (\$1 at the door/\$5 for lunch)
Thursday, August 28 at Blue Mountain College
Rally: Fairview Choir, Columbus
Bill Baker, former pastor at FBC, Clinton

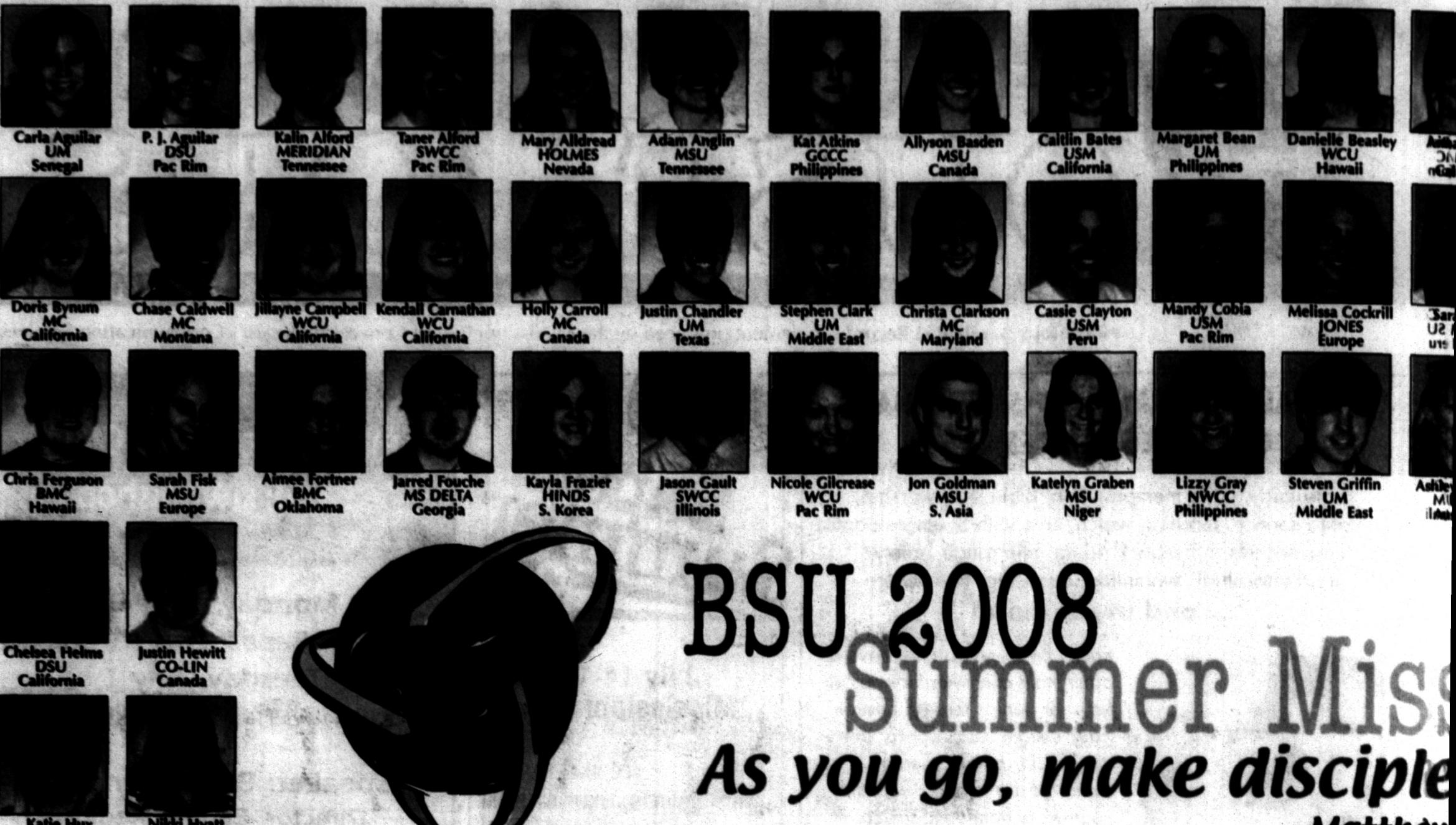
Break-outs:
Fun Time with "CW" - Gary Jackson, "CW" character on WFCA Radio, French Camp
Preparing for the Journey - Tom Crocker, LifeWay Consultant, Memphis, Tenn.
Seniors on Mission with God - Kay Cassibry, State WMU Director, MBCB

Must preregister by August 18.
To register call Blue Mountain College at 662-685-4771.
For more info, call the Discipleship & Family Ministry Department
601-292-3284, 1-800-748-1651, ext. 284, or gshows@mbcb.org



ONE VOICE
IN CONCERT

FBC
Pontotoc
May 18
6:30 p.m.



BSU 2008 Summer Missions

As you go, make disciples

Matthew 28:19





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Four sources of thoughts in our minds: God says, "Come to me"; the Serpent says, "Believe me"; the flesh says, "Satisfy me"; the World says, "Conform to me." We must filter all voices (thoughts) through the Word of God to discern their source.

by Iva May, author of "W3, Women, Worldview and the Word, Serious Discipleship in a Secular Culture"

(1) Christian Home Week (DEFM Emphasis); (2) Many of the next generation of Caribbean youth have never been reached with the gospel. Others have grown up in traditional churches that no longer meet their spiritual needs. Pray that every young person will know that he can have a personal relationship with Christ.

Pastors/Ministers of Education/SS Directors Conference, FBC, Columbus (SS). Pray that those attending will catch a fresh vision of how the Sunday School can be a growth agent in their churches. Pray also that they will come away with a clear understanding of how to build Bible study groups in the church. (2) Senior Adult Choir Festival, FBC, Florence (CM).

(1) MOTHER'S DAY SPECIAL DAY OFFERING (Baptist Children's Village emphasis); (2) On this Mother's Day, pray especially for the single mothers in our congregations. Pray that church members will be sensitive to their specific practical needs and implement a plan of how to assist in meeting these needs.

(1) Student Ministry Training, Clarksdale BC, Clarksdale (SS); (2) There is an unsettledness among three of the four Baptist churches in one township of rural those of South Africa. Internal challenges are taking energy away from joint worship and outreach programs that have been planned. Pray that leaders and members will focus on building up God's kingdom.

(1) Pastors/Ministers of Education/SS Directors Conference, FBC, Brookhaven (SS). Pray that those attending will catch a fresh vision of how the Sunday School can be a growth agent in their churches. Pray also that they will come away with a clear understanding of how to build Bible study groups in the church. (2) Senior Adult Choir Festival, FBC, Florence (CM).

(1) Baptist Building AT HOME DAYS, 7-9; (2) Malaysia is quickly becoming a hub for higher education in the region of Southeast Asia. Students come from all over the world and include those from many different regions and many countries, some very closed to the gospel message. Pray for access to the students to get them the Good News of Jesus Christ.

(1) Student Ministry Training, Harrisburg BC, Tupelo (SS). Pray for student ministers to be encouraged and have God's heart and wisdom in their outreach to this very important age group during this critical time period of their young lives. (2) ALT - Associational Leadership Training, Garaywa (CG).

Pray for the hearts of the people in Queretaro, Mexico, which are darkened by their lost spiritual condition. With more than half of the population being under 20 years old, there is openness to different ideas and systems of beliefs. However, there is a strong interest in the occult and satanic ritualistic practices, along with New Age ideologies.

Pray for the new work in Pelotas, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil, where a high number of spiritist worship centers have hindered the gospel. A couple from São Paulo has arrived in the city, and a new work has begun to teach the Areal area. There is no Baptist work in the community. Intercede for a powerful movement of the Holy Spirit in hearts there.

In the final months leading up to the Beijing 2008 Summer Olympics, visa restrictions have been imposed on many Westerners living and traveling in China. Please pray that the restrictions will be temporary, and that all those who love the Chinese enough to share Christ with them will be able to continue to travel freely throughout China.

Please pray that the Lord will provide the right man for D, a professional in Cairo, Egypt, and a believer, to marry. Marriage is different here; the wife's family is very involved in choosing the mate. Ask God to provide someone who is from her same background, but who follows Jesus.



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For more information call: **800-748-1651**

Deadline to register is **May 12**.

Bible Drill Selection Tournament Results

The following students participated in the Bible Drill Selection Tournament at First Church, Clinton, Apr. 19.



Junior High Tournament final round

Junior High Tournament Final Round (from left):

Heather Pate, First Church, Greenwood
Rebekah Chancellor, Hephzibah Church, Clarke Association
Dustin Runnels, Bowmar Church, Warren Association
Sam Lovorn, Trinity Church, Neshoba Association
Beth Tillman, First Church, Coffeeville

Drew Tillman, First Church, Coffeeville
Sarah DeLee, First Church, McComb
Maddison Douglas, Longview Point, Hernando
Robby Baine, First Church, Greenwood
Andrew Hanna, Neshoba Church, Neshoba Association
Brett Cole, Oral Church, Lamar Association
Kipp Gill, First Church, Byhalia



Scholarship finalists

Nine-year Scholarship Tournament Finalists (from left)

Ashley Ellis, Pope Church, Panola Association
Ryan Hoxie, Bowmar Church, Warren Association
Kacie Howard, Emmanuel Church, Washington Association
Christina Drinkwater, Poplar Springs Drive Church, Lauderdale Association

Sabrina Madewell, Colonial Heights Church, Metro Association
Nancy Barnard, First Church, Sharon
Adam Rigdon, First Church, Sharon
Mallory Haulcomb, Woodland Church, Pontotoc Association
Stephanie Baine, First Church, Greenwood
Elise M. Gibbs, Clarke-Venable Church, Decatur
Sarah Johnson, Topisaw Church, Lincoln Association
Justin Sanders, First Church, Jackson



Junior High winners

Junior High Winners (from left):

Sam Lovorn, Fourth Place
Robby Baine, Third Place
Kipp Gill, Second Place
Rebekah Chancellor, First Place



Scholarship winners

Scholarship Winners (from left)

Adam Rigdon, First Place
Ashley Ellis, Second Place
Ryan Hoxie, Third Place

COLLEGE NEWS

1. Wayne VanHorn has been named dean of the School of Christian Studies & the Arts at Mississippi College. He continues to chair the Department of Christian Studies and Philosophy.
2. The William Carey University Winters School of Music will present a concert by world renowned organist and current president of the American Guild of Organists, Frederick Swann, May 2 at 7 p.m. in the Smith Auditorium. The concert will honor Swann's teacher, Clarence Dickinson, the "Father of American Church Music."



YOU CAN RESPOND
RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

BIBLE DRILL

1. **Star Church, Star**, recognizes its children's and youth Bible drill teams who completed the association and state Bible drills Apr. 1 and 12. Shown are the two teams.
2. **First Church, Morton**, recognizes its children's and youth Bible drill teams which participated in the state Bible drills at First Church, Madison. The youth drillers were Austin Mauney, Amber Jolly, Kara Beth Johnson, Emily Marler, and A.J. Reeves; Jason Westmoreland, leader. Children's drillers were Allison Massey, Harlon Mauney, Allison Reeves, and Walker Phillips; Sonda Johnson, leader.
3. **Calvary Church, Bogue Chitto**, had six students participate in children's Bible drills. They are, from left, Kara Beth Crosby, Alana Nettles, Heather Crosby, Nathan Bilbo, Rebeka Wright, and Jessee Freeman. Drill leader, Pam Wallace; Trent Bilbo, pastor



1a. Star Church youth Bible drill team



1b. Star Church children's Bible drill team



REVIVALS AND HOMECOMINGS

First Church, Black Hawk: Homecoming, May 18; services, 11 a.m.. Bryan Burson, pastor.

Jasper Association, Sylva-Bay Academy, Bay Springs: Area-wide gospel crusade, June 2 - 6:30, 7 p.m.; Campers on Mission, singing and preaching.

Mountain Creek Church, Rankin County: Revival, May 18 - 21; Sun., 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Jack West, speaker; Joe Wood, music; Clarence E. Young, interim pastor.

Goodwater Lauderdale Church, County: Homecoming, May 4; services, 11 a.m., followed by dinner on the ground; Danny Bullock, speaker; Jim Smith, pastor.

Larue Church, Vancleave: Homecoming, May 4, with lunch following services; Revival, May 5 - 8, 7 p.m.; Don Savel, speaker.



3. Bible drillers, Calvary Church, Bogue Chitto

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STAFF CHANGES

1. **Macedonia Church, Brookhaven**, has called Garland Boyd as pastor. He comes with his wife Gail and daughters Jessie and Kallie. He holds degrees from West Lincoln High School, attended Clarke College, graduated from Mississippi College and is completing his D. Min at New Orleans Seminary. He comes from First Church, Lyman.
2. **Concord Church, Macon**, has called Jimmy May as pastor.
3. **Springfield Church, Morton**, has called Scott Mangum as youth minister. He is shown with his family.
4. **Calvary Church, Tupelo**, has called David Eldridge as pastor. He comes from First Church, Okolona. He and his wife Danielle have two sons, Hayden and Luke. He holds degrees from Clinton High School, Mississippi College, Beeson Divinity School, and is completing Ph.D. from New Orleans Seminary.



3. Mangum family

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BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

Unlocking Your Best Relationship: Strengthening Friendships in Christ

Philippians 2:19-22, 25-30; 4:15-18



By Rick Henson

No good deed goes unpunished. Paul certainly felt that when he cast the demons out of a slave girl in Philippi, Macedonia. Because they set this girl free from the ravages of demonic possession, Paul and Silas were beaten and cast into prison. Paul and Silas prayed, praised, and proclaimed, and sang praises to the Lord and preached to the other prisoners. They did have a captive audience for once. Later that night God's hand shook the prison and all the doors flew open and all their chains fell off.

The jailer thought everyone had escaped and prepared to kill himself. Paul stopped him announcing,

"We are all still here."

The jailer had never seen prisoners refuse to escape. He fell on his knees before Paul and Silas and begged, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" Paul answered with the plan of salvation, speaking the word of the Lord. This man and his entire household were saved that very night, according to Acts 16.

Over a decade later Paul wrote a letter to the church in Philippi. Certainly businesswoman Lydia (Acts 6:14-15) and this jailer were among those hearing this letter as it was read aloud. They each had a relationship with Paul who wrote the letter, so they understood that he had their best interest in mind. The jailer personally

Henson

knew that Paul loved him enough to go to prison and be beaten in order to reach him with the gospel.

From the events in the book of Acts and from his letters we learn that Paul built churches upon relationships. At the conclusion of each of his letters except Ephesians, are personal comments, encouragements, admonitions, and even corrections. The letter to the church at Ephesus was a cyclical letter intended for many churches and was therefore generic in its personal references. The others are filled with names and phrases that reveal close relationships between Paul and many people.

So when he wrote to the church at Philippi about Timothy and Epaphroditus, the church members understood that Paul knew them both very well. He had demonstrated relationship building with them, and they trusted his words.

Paul wrote that Timothy

was like-minded and a man of proven character. He also wrote that Epaphroditus was a brother, co-worker, and fellow soldier. These terms indicate that Paul and Epaphroditus shared common goals and commitments.

Jesus built relationships with people. Mark 3:14 reads, "And He appointed twelve, that they might be with Him, and that He might send them out to preach." The twelve were with Jesus before they were sent out. Jesus invested Himself into twelve lives and changed the world.

Paul invested himself into Timothy. 2 Timothy 1:13-14 reads, "Retain the standard of sound words which you have heard from me, in the faith and love which are in Christ Jesus. Guard, through the Holy Spirit who dwells in us, the treasure which has been entrusted to you."

In 1854 a shoe store owner in Boston shared his faith with an eighteen year old boy. The young boy accepted Christ. Later his family moved to Chicago, where the Lord called

the young boy to preach. Until his death in 1899 Dwight L. Moody preached the gospel to over one hundred million people in Europe and America. Over one hundred thousand people are estimated to have received Christ under his ministry, all because a shoe salesman invested his life into the life of an eighteen year old boy.

Paul invested his life into Timothy and instructed him to do the same. Salvation is the result of relationships. Discipleship is the result of relationships. Are you investing yourself in anyone? 1 Corinthians 11:1 reads, "Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ."

We live such hurried lives today, and must intentionally build relationships. Jesus sought out Zacchaeus and went to his house. The religious leaders of His day passed on Zacchaeus, but Jesus spent time with him and changed his life. In whom are you investing your life?

Henson is pastor of Oakdale Church, Brandon

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Acknowledge Broken Relationships

Genesis 42:6-7, 9, 13-24a

By Marion Duncan

Having now seen the fulfillment of the dreams Joseph interpreted, prepare to see the fulfilling of Joseph's boyhood dreams in which God revealed that his family would pay him homage.

Back in Canaan, the patriarchal family was caught up in the blight of famine. Word had come of plentiful grain in Egypt and many were making the trip to buy grain to keep from starving. Jacob asked his sons why they continued just looking at each other in despondence when they should be on their way to Egypt to buy grain to provide food so they may live and not die (Genesis 42:2).

Ten of Joseph's brothers went down to buy grain from Egypt, but Jacob did not send Benjamin

because he feared that

harm might come to him. Joseph was the governor and had responsibility for the sale of grain. In his presence, his brothers bowed their faces to the floor in front of him, a courtesy of the day. They acknowledged him, but because of their "blindness," did not recognize him for who he was. Most Jews today fail to recognize Jesus as their Messiah. Paul said, "Blindness has happened to Israel." (Romans 11:25-KJV) Famine drove the chosen family to Joseph as the rigors of great tribulation will drive Israel to Christ. (Exploring Genesis)

As soon as Joseph saw them, he recognized them. They were older than he and still looked much as they did the last time he saw them. He was only seventeen at that point; and, in



Duncan

twenty years, had matured and changed in appearance. The brothers wore the familiar dress of herdsmen, but Joseph had on Egyptian royal robes. God would accomplish Joseph's dreams and bring his brothers to repentance for their sins.

He was harsh with his brothers testing them for repentant hearts after all these years. He accused them of being spies there to find the weakest points of defense on the Egyptian borders. To convince the governor of their innocence, they referred to themselves as his servants and the sons of one man there to buy food for their family. Then they told him that they were twelve brothers, the sons of one man, who lived in Canaan. They explained the youngest brother was at home with their father, and one brother was no more. There it was! Their subtle implication referenced him as their brother. Once again Joseph called them spies and protested "by the life of

Pharaoh" that they were so. Since this protest or oath was more than his "Yes" or "No" (Matthew 5:34-37), it came from evil. This was certainly not the language of a son of Abraham. When Peter wanted to distance himself from Jesus, he cursed and denied Him. (Matthew 26:74) (Note: Use of slang or cursing is quickly learned from users around us, but not so easily unlearned).

Joseph presented a test to them that would prove their innocence. One of them would return home and bring the younger brother back with him while the other nine waited in prison. He kept all of them in custody for three days, then said, "Do this and you will live, for I fear God: If you are honest men, let one of your brothers stay here in prison, while the rest of you go and take grain back for your starving households. But you must bring your youngest brother to me, so that your words may be verified and that you may not die." (42:18-20) Having no idea Joseph could understand them, the brothers lamented their guilt in their treatment of Joseph even

when he pled for his life. Joseph wept for them. He chose Simeon, the cruellest of them all, to remain in Egypt for he needed special discipline.

On their journey homeward, one opened his sack to feed the donkey and discovered his "silver in his sack." (42:27) They queried, "What is this that God has done to us?" But, they were not ready to pour out their hearts in repentance for what they had done to Joseph.

They told Jacob all that had happened to them in Egypt including Joseph's request to see Benjamin. When they found silver in all their grain sacks, they were frightened. "Jacob said to them, 'You have deprived me of my children. Joseph is no more, and Simeon is no more... My son (Benjamin) will not go down there with you...'" (42:36,38a) Their crimes were covered up, but not their character. Jacob could not trust his sons.

Duncan is wMu director at First Church, Starkville

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) type-written, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will

be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be

clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Photographs can not be returned. Please do not attach photos with tape or staples.

All news items are subject to editing and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape-, building-, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

THE BAPTIST
Record

JUST FOR THE RECORD

1. Thrasher Church, Booneville, presented the drama/musical The Cross Mar. 16. Shown is a scene from the presentation.
2. Cruger Church, Cruger, observed the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering, with the 62-member church reaching their goal of \$1,700, half of which was received on one day.
3. Wildwood Church, Clinton, will host a retirement reception for Barbara Huffmaster May 4 in recognition of her 39 years of service as child-care director at Wildwood and Van Winkle Church.
4. Jasper Butler, retired bivocational music evangelist and soloist, is available full-time for revivals, conferences, retreats, senior adult functions, etc. Call (601) 955-4566.
5. Reggie and Ladye Love Smith will be leading in worship at Moselle Memorial Church, Moselle, May 4, 8:15 a.m. (contemporary) and 10:30 a.m. (traditional gospel and hymns).
6. The puppet ministry of Tangipahoa Church, Summit, The Master's Hands, is performing Come
7. Lynn Ray Road Church, Petal: End times Bible conference, May 4 - 7; Sun., 10 a.m., followed by lunch, and 4 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Ed Steele, speaker.
8. Jerusalem Church, Kosciusko, ordained Charles Odom as deacon Apr. 13. Shown are Phil Pettit, Billy Pettit, Terry

MS POSITIONS

BRANDON BAPTIST CHURCH, Brandon, Miss., a traditional southern Baptist church, is currently accepting resumes from qualified applicants for the position of senior pastor. Please send resumes to pastor selection committee, P.O. Box 1662, Brandon, MS 39043-1662.

WANTED: PINEVIEW BAPTIST CHURCH, Clinton, MS is seeking individual for part-time interim minister of music or part-time minister of music for blended Worship service. Please send resume to Pineview Baptist Church, 1288 Clinton-Raymond Road, Clinton, MS 39056 or email to Pineviewbc@bellsouth.net. Or fax your resume to 601-924-8378.

VAIDEN BAPTIST CHURCH, Vaiden, Miss., is seeking a full-time associate pastor/youth minister. We are a thriving church seeking God's man to minister to students and families. If you are interested or know a great prospect please contact us at 662-464-5275, fcmat41589@aol.com, 501 Mulberry Street Vaiden, MS. 39176.

COUNTY LINE BAPTIST CHURCH, Crystal Springs, Miss., is accepting resumes

for the position of a full-time pastor. Please send resume to County Line Baptist Church, attn: Mr. Billy Barnes, P.O. Box 578, Crystal Springs, MS 39059.

FBC OLOH, IS CURRENTLY ACCEPTING resumes for full-time minister of music/youth. Please submit resumes to FBC Oloh, attn: music search committee, 36 Oloh Church Road, Sumrall, MS 39482.

BOULEVARD BAPTIST CHURCH, Southaven, Miss., is seeking a pianist. Please send resumes to Boulevard Baptist Church, 885 Church Rd. E, Southaven, MS 38671 or email alphiringer@boulevardbaptist.us.

FULL-TIME MINISTER OF MUSIC. Parkview Baptist Church, Greenville, Miss., is seeking a full-time minister of music. Please send resume to personnel committee, 712 McAllister St., Greenville, MS 38701, or email to parkviewp@bellsouth.net.

TWO POSITIONS: CENTRAL BAPTIST Church, Brookhaven, Miss., is accepting resumes for a full-time minister of music/outreach & full-time minister of students/college. Send resumes to 749 N. Hattiesburg, MS 39402.

Jackson Street, Brookhaven, MS 39601 or email to questions@cbcbrookhaven.org.

DERMA BAPTIST CHURCH, CALHOUN County Baptist Association, is accepting resumes for a full-time worship leader position. Should have a passion for building relationships with all age groups and a heart for inviting people to worship. Send resume to msm@tycom.net.

IMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH IN Vicksburg, Miss., seeking individual for full-time minister of music. Please send resume to Immanuel Baptist Church, attn: personnel committee, 6949 Hwy 61 South, Vicksburg, MS 39180 or email to IBC_personnel@yahoo.com or contact Michael Bull at 601-218-5325.

SEEKING CHILDREN'S DIRECTOR FOR part-time position. Duties include: directing children's program, which includes: Mission Friends on Wednesday night Children's Church program during worship hour on Sunday morning Disciple Training on Sunday evening. Call or fax resume to: 601-264-7699 or mail to FBC of Bellevue, 7173 US Hwy 98 W, Hattiesburg, MS 39402.

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Pettit, Paul Cook, Charles Odom, pastor Johnny Parks, Lamar Townsend, and Bobby Waggoner.

10. **Main Street Church, Goodman**, celebrated its homecoming Apr. 6. Pastor John W. Parker recognized Helen McKibben for 40 years of service as church pianist. Shown are McKibben and Parker.



1. Thrasher Church, Booneville



8. Deacon ordination, Jerusalem Church, Kosciusko



10. Main Street Church, McKibben and Parker

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